DECLARATION AND WARNING

Unto all the Members of this

KIRK AND KINGDOME,

In answer to a paper intituled and reputed the Declaration of *James Grahame.*

By the Commission of the Generall Assembly of the Kirk of

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH,
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EDINBURGH, 2. *January* 1650. *Antemeridiem.*

The Declaration and Warning of the Commission of the Generall Assembly unto all the members of this Kirk and Kingdom, in answer to a paper intituled and reputed The Declaration of *JAMES GRAHAME.*

ALbeit the carriage of those who are engaged in the work of Reformation in this Land hath been from the beginning so agreeable to the rule of the Word of God and of sound reason, and so eminently owned and blessed by the Lord in all the tenour and procedour thereof, as may sufficiently refute all the calumnies of enemies, and strengthen his people against all their slanders and attempts for undoing of the same; Yet least our silence in this day of blasphemy and rebuke should be construed either as a neglect of our duty, or as weakness through the sense of the guilt, to wipe off the aspersions that are vented to the world in the name of that excomunicate & forfeited traytor *James Graham* we have resolved till there may be opportunitie for a larger Declaration, shortlie to touch the revylings contained in that paper, and to declare unto men their dutie in reference to such purposes and desires as are holden forth therein.

In the first place the instruments of the worke of Reformation are charged *as an horrid and infamous faction of rebells, who did hatch a rebellion against his late Majesty*: But to say nothing that that wretched man was accessorie unto the laying of the foundation of that blessed work, which now in the blindness of his minde and hardnesse of his heart, as being given up of God, as *Pharaoh* was, he calles rebellion. This is no other then the common calumnie that hath been cast upon the servants of God from the beginning of the world in all their indevours and attempts for reformation of religion: Was it rebellion to stand to our defence, when in stead of an answer to all the earnest and reiterated supplications and desires of this land against the corruptions of doctrine, worship, discipline and govern-

ment

ment, we were invaded with an army both by Sea and land, that a yoak might be wreathed about our necks by oppreſſion and violence. Not onlie had we the Lords word, and the practiſe of the reformed Churches abroad, and of our own Church at home in the dayes of our Fathers, to juſtifie us in this, but alſo the King himſelfe, who upon information did retract the Declaration let forth againſt us, and grant what we had deſired.

Next it is charged upon this Nation *that they did ſolicite a partie in the Kingdome of* England *to beginne where they had left off, and that finding their rebell brood there beginning to leſſen, They did, contrarie to all Faith, Covenants, Oathes, &c. enter with a ſtrong army the Kingdome of* England, *perſecute their Prince in a forreigne Nation, and aſſiſt a company of ſtrangers rebells againſt their native King, &c.* What was the grounds and firſt riſe of the war betwixt the King and the Parliament of *England*, needs not now to be repeated, being ſo well known every where; But this Nation were ſo far from fomenting of the ſame, that for a long time they did mediate a peace, and ſo continued, untill *England* by their earneſt invitation, did for the preſervation and reformation of Religion, the honour and happineſſe of the King, the peace and good of theſe Kingdoms, crave their aſſiſtance againſt the Popiſh, Prelaticall and Malignant party then in armes, who were like to have deſtroyed all: For which end, when they had entred in a ſolemn League and Covenant with that Nation, as they did oblige themſelves for the defence and preſervation of his Majeſties Perſon and juſt greatneſſe and Authority in the defence and preſervation of Religion, ſo they did never deſiſt to ſolicit his Majeſty for ſatisfaction to the juſt deſires of both Kingdoms; and were alwayes, upon his Majeſties granting of the ſame, willing to admit him to the exerciſe of his Royall Power.

Thirdly, it is alleadged, *that after all manner of aſſurances given to his Majeſty before his comming to the Scotiſh Armie, notwithſtanding of aſſurances, hee was ſold unto the Engliſh:* But we are confident that albeit all the generation of Malignants of the three Kingdoms have now for three years together filled this and

the Nations abroad with the noyse of such things, that yet to this day never any of them did, nor could bring any evidence of such assurance given, or such bargane made by this Kingdome, nay such assurances were alwayes refused, and when the King did cast himself upon the Scotish Army, this Kingdom was so far from making any sale of him, that they did not condescend to leave him with his Subjects in *England*, untill sufficient surety was given by both Houses of Parliament concerning the safety and preservation of his *Majesties* Person. It is great malice to say, that because the Scotish Army, about the time of his Majesties living at *New-Castle*, did receive some part of those arrears due unto them for their painfull and faithfull service in *England*, that therefore this Kingdom did sell their King; The arrears which were then received were due before the King came unto our Army, And in all probability had been more timously and cheerfully paid if he had not come thither at all.

Fourthly, they are slandered *as completeurs of the Kings destruction by secret intercourses both before, in the time, and since his Majesties horrid murther*: If those things be evident, why were not the proofs brought forth and produced before the world for convincing the authors and abetters thereof, and gaining credit to the cause of those that make so bold allegance? The publick endeavours and Testimonies of this Kirk and Kingdom against the taking of his Majesties life, do sufficiently refute all such secret and private whisperings.

Lastly, they are charged *as robbers of the King who now is of all right, because of their declaring him King with provisoes*: But are these provisoes or conditions any other then such as have been in the time of his predecessors, and whereunto by the Lawes and constitutions of this Kingdom he is obliged, and without which, Religion and the peace of the Kingdom cannot be secured.

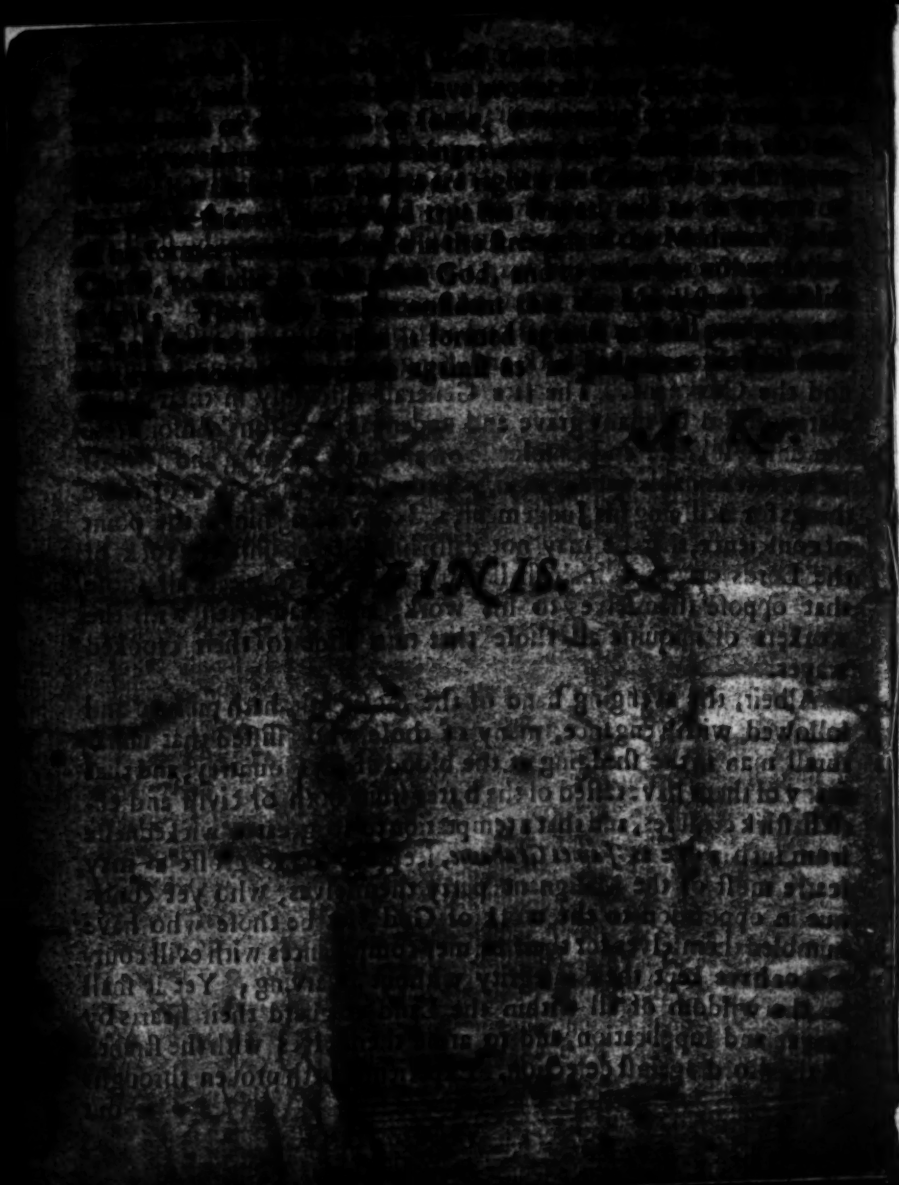
These and the like slanders are made a ground of invitation unto the people of this Land to abandon the cause, and work of reformation, and to rise in Armes against the Parliament and Kingdom,

Kingdom, and joyne themselves with such forces as that mon-
ster of men and his complices shall make use of for invading of the
Land, to which he labours to perswade a promise of pardon for
what is past, and of his Majesties resolution *to be ever ready to ra-
tifie, so soon as it shall please God to put it in his power according
to the advice of the supream Judicatories of this Kingdome, all
what has been done by his Royall Father in order to our peace.*
Though we should be silent and say nothing, we are perswaded that
there be none in the Land who has any regard to truth or righteous-
nesse, or in whom any spunk of the love of the Lords work, or of
this countrey does reside, but as they abhominate and abhor the ve-
ry name of that excommunicate wretch, and think these lies worthy
of no other entertainment then is to be allowed to the devices of the
father of lies, unto whose hands he is delivered; so we are confident
that they will detest and avoid all such desperate and wicked designs
attempted whether by him or by any other. Shall men, after so
many solemn vowes and promises before the Lord, and his hand
lifted up so high in making plain before them the way wherein they
should walk, be so blind and base as to be charmed into a most
godlesse course against Religion and the blood of the Lords peo-
ple by the offer of a pardon, where there has been no transgression
but a following of duty? or shall any be cheated into delusion by
a flourish of most ambiguous words of his Majesties resolution to
be ever ready to ratify, so soon as it shall please God to put him
in his power according to the advice of the supream Judicatories
of this Kingdom, all what has been done by his royall Father in
order to our peace? To say nothing that the League and Covenant
and the Union betwixt the Kingdoms, and the whole work of
Uniformity is here cut off at one clap, though yet we trust that
these things will be dearer to all the Lords people in the Land
then their Estates or lives: The words are so emptie and doubtfull
as may suffer any interpretation men list to put upon them, and may
consist with the utter undoing of all that has been done in this
Land for asserting the puritie of Religion and the libertie of the

subject

Subject. His Majesty must first be put in power, before he engage himselfe to do any thing at all, and when in power, no obligation upon him, unlesse the supream Judicatories of the Kingdom shall so advise; neither is it determined what these Judicatories are, whither his Majesty shall be obliged to follow the advice, and which is more strange, Religion is not so much as named in all the concession, but all is wrapped under the notion of these things which the King his Royall Father granted in order to our peace: which may be so expounded as to take in things Civill only that concern the peace of the Kingdom, or at the best, insinuates the motive of all that his Majesty granted concerning Religion to this Kingdom to have been only a desire of peace, and not any thing in Religion it self; And so drawes alongs with it a secret reflection upon the Nationall Covenant and all the work of God relating thereto, and concludes them alterable as the change may produce peace or warre. We think we need not desire any man to consider what could be the case of Religion and of all that love it in this Land, if it were in the power of that perfidious and proud Atheist to modell the supream Iudicatories of the Kingdom according to his minde: hee who hath so far forgotten his Covenant and Oath in which he entred in so publick and solemn a way, as to call all that is contained therein, and has flowed therefrom violent and most unjust desires, and the work of Reformation from the beginning rebellion, will not spare the overturning and destroying thereof, and the bringing back this poor Nation to the licking up of the vomit of Prelacie, the ceremonies and the Service Book, for making way to a fuller compliance with the Church of Rome: Which we have the more cause to fear, for that the free exercise and full liberty of popish Religion is granted by his Majesty to those bloody rebels in *Ireland*. To us it is above question, that as the alteration of Religion, and the establishing of an arbitrarie and illimited power for bringing the same about, was the designe from the beginning, so that the same is still promoted by the popish, Prelaticall and malignant partie, and shall (if they prevaile) be the fruit of their workes.

Therefore

Therefore, as the ſervants of the living God, we warn and obteſt all the Lords people throughout the Land, that as they would not draw on themſelves the wrath of the moſt high God by breach of Covenant and groſs backſliding, that they do not hearken to any ſuch calumnies and ſlanders, nor ſuffer themſelves by the power thereof to be drawn from their ſtedfaſtneſſe, or to give any connivance, let be countenance or aſſiſtance unto any who ſhall invade this Kingdom or raiſe war therein under pretence of Commiſſion from his Majeſtie, and putting him in the exerciſe of his Royall power before ſatisfaction had from him to the juſt and neceſſarie deſires of this Kirk and Kingdome concerning Religion and the Covenant. The late Generall Aſſembly in their Declaration did by many grave and undenyable reaſons demonſtrate the unlawfulneſſe and ſinfulneſſe of any ſuch attempt; and it ſhall be now ſealonable for any man, who doubts to make uſe of theſe things for ſatiſfying his Judgement, and convincing him in the point of conſcience, that he may not daſh himſelfe againſt the rock of the Lords power, which ſhall certainly break in pieces all thoſe that oppoſe themſelves to his work, and lead forth with the workers of iniquitie all thoſe that turn aſide to their crooked wayes.

Albeit, the avenging hand of the moſt high, hath purſued and followed with vengance, many of thoſe who aſſiſted that unnaturall man in the ſhedding of the blood of his Countrey, and that many of them have taſted of the bitter fruits both of civill and eccleſiaſtick cenſures, and that a temptation to ſo great a wickedneſſe from ſuch a one as *James Grahame*, ſeeme to be ſo groſſe as may ſcarre moſt of the Malignant party themſelves, who yet continue in oppoſition to the work of God, let be thoſe who have humbled themſelves for their former complyances with evill courſes, or have kept their integrity without ſwarving; Yet it ſhall be the wiſdom of all within the Land to guard their hearts by prayer and ſupplication, and to arme themſelves with the ſtrenth of the Lord againſt defection. Experience hath proven through-